

21<sup>st</sup> March, 2016

Carina Mayer  
Senior Manager  
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Dear Carina

Australia congratulates the FEI in its efforts to consult widely with National Federations to establish the proposal to be submitted to the IOC in regard to the future of Equestrian in the Olympic Games.

After a review of the relevant documentation relating to Dressage, Equestrian Australia and the Australian Dressage Committee can provide the following observations and comments.

We are in agreement to the following concepts;

- a) Three (3) riders in a team with a reserve combination/horse.
- b) The reserve combination **must be able to be substituted for medical or veterinary reasons until after** the Horse Inspection and on same day as Horse Inspection.
- c) Fifteen (15) teams
- d) Fifteen (15) individuals (only one individual per country). The quality of this field will depend on the qualification score required for the MES. This could well be raised from 64% to 65/66%.

We further support Proposal B on the grounds that in broad principle it is more easily understood by the public, is shorter in terms of number of days ( 4 days including a rest day after the GP), more appealing to TV audience, especially the Individual competition.

We understand that the Team Result will come from the ranked scores in Test 1. Grand Prix.

- We have reservations about the “heat” concept as illustrated to determine the qualified riders for the Individual final. The final make-up of the riders qualified for the Freestyle must surely be the Best Performed. This is how all other sports such as swimming and running etc. develop this concept – run heats but the finals is made up of those that have achieved the best times.
- We require clarification regarding how the Groups in Option A are allocated – is this dependent on the World rankings at the time or the Olympic World ranking list. We need further description on the composition of each group in relation to these ranking groups.
- We would prefer to see at least one third of the field in the Freestyle therefore up to 24 horses rather than 15 to 18.
- In the Freestyle no country should have more than 2 riders qualified.
- We recommend that the current WEG event format be retained and not follow any new OG format for Dressage. WEG should be the peak event for the discipline rather than designed around the media and public which is the case for Olympics. Numbers could be limited through higher qualifying score and teams could be three plus reserve rather than 4 as at present with a drop score.
- We would support Proposal B on the condition that WEG is allowed to continue in its current format.

Australia supports the FEI in its plan to hire a brand agency to advise on the options. We are of the opinion this is highly valuable to investigate further opportunities for the wider community to be become engaged in the sport however this needs to be a cost effective exercise.

Equestrian Australia is of the very strong opinion that Dressage and Equestrian must remain in the Olympic Games. Competition figures following Barcelona proved the influence on number of riders who participate in the sport. Our presence at the Olympics is a critical piece in the Australian Sporting landscape. Equestrian Australia will look to support the changes necessary in the format in Dressage that will ensure our continued participation in the Olympic Games.

Australia thanks all those who have been involved in this very extensive consultative process.

On behalf of Equestrian Australia

Very best regards,



Judy Fasher  
Chair, Equestrian Australia



Mary Seefried  
Chair of Australian Dressage Committee